

Congresswoman NAPOLITANO. I am grateful for her continued leadership and commitment on this issue and I look forward to further collaborating with her.

HONORING NEW ROCHELLE YMCA
120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize an institution that has helped children and families in my district for an astonishing 120 years, the New Rochelle YMCA.

On January 15, 1899 a group of New Rochelleans gathered at 56 Woodland Ave. in New Rochelle to discuss the possibility of creating a YMCA. On February 3, 1899 the New Rochelle YMCA received its article of incorporation.

The original home of the Y was located at 480–482 Main Street where a building committee was established to create a permanent home. Twenty-six years later the YMCA purchased the Hendricks property at the corner of Division St. and Burling Lane (now Memorial Highway) and began raising money to build a new site. Following the economic uncertainty of the stock market crash, the new building was completed in 1931.

A true charitable organization, the Y was involved with the soldiers at Fort Slocum during both world wars, providing them with room and board while on leave from their base, as well as providing room for the American Red Cross. Several local community organizations used the Y facility as meeting halls for their respective groups. Over the years the Y provided many programs for the New Rochelle community, with the pool being the most popular feature and by 1939 had a membership of over 2,200 people. Over the years, the Y developed a rich history in diversity.

In the 1980's they moved into its current home on 50 Weyman Avenue, a space it shared with the Boys and Girls Club.

The YMCA's presence in the community has continued to increase over the last ten years, as the focus of the Y shifted from a "swim and gym club" to a community based charitable organization, which offers affordable programs, in addition to providing financial aid for children and families in need. Currently the YMCA serves close to 5,000 members, with a great majority of seniors and children. The YMCA has developed a Universal Pre-K program in partnership with the New Rochelle school district.

The New Rochelle YMCA has served the community for 120 years. On the occasion of their anniversary, I'd like to congratulate and thank their entire team for all they have done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call

No. 185; YEA Roll Call No. 186; YEA Roll Call No. 187; and YEA Roll Call No. 188.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TEXAS
A&M UNIVERSITY-SAN ANTONIO

HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 10th Anniversary of Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Since its establishment in 2009, A&M-San Antonio has transformed into a bustling, centralized University that has awarded over 8,000 degrees on the Southside of San Antonio, so students are prepared to take on the challenges of the 21st Century.

Additionally, the University is reflective of the rich heritage of the community it serves, with a student body that's 60-percent female, 72-percent Hispanic and 77-percent first-generation college students. I am proud to represent a University that is playing a hands-on role in moving our country forward, and I know this is only the beginning.

On behalf of the Twenty-third Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Texas A&M University-San Antonio on this achievement and go jaguars.

HONORING THE ROANOKE
TRIBUNE

HON. BEN CLINE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 80th anniversary of the Roanoke Tribune newspaper in Roanoke, Virginia.

Founded by Reverend F.E. Alexander in 1939, the Roanoke Tribune has played an important role in the community of Roanoke, representing the African-American community as it fought racial discrimination in the Roanoke Valley in the 20th Century.

Their tradition of strong, independent journalism which holds leaders and the powerful accountable continues today under the leadership of Reverend Alexander's daughter, Claudia A. Whitworth, and his grandson, Stanley A. Hale.

Congratulations to the Roanoke Tribune on its 80 years, and here is wishing them many more.

SUPPORT OF THE LAWYERS DEFENDING DEMOCRACY "OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS"

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, while the nation has been focused on Russian interference with the 2016 presidential election and questions of presidential obstruction of justice, President Donald Trump's violation of funda-

mental principles and norms of American democracy have been far more comprehensive. In the last three months, more than 400 attorneys—including former federal and state judges, United States Attorneys, managing partners of large law firms, law deans and other distinguished lawyers from around the country—have stepped forward in a broad and unprecedented effort to defend American democracy and the rule of law against official lawlessness.

The lawyers have signed and published an "Open Letter to The President and Congress" identifying five fundamental norms and principles of our democracy which they believe the President has violated. These violations involve the President's unjustified attacks on the mainstream media, courts, law enforcement and intelligence agencies, his repeated lying to the public, and failure to respect civil discourse and peoples from all backgrounds. The Letter's Appendix cites examples of violations of each principle.

The Letter emphasizes that it is "NOT about disagreements over Republican or Democratic policies, liberal or conservative ideology, or political party advantage. The values and principles threatened here are much deeper, and are much more important, than politics, policy differences and any politician's self-interest. They're the bedrock of our American, constitutional, democratic form of government for all times."

The Letter notes that: "[u]nless challenged and checked, the pattern of disregard weakens the norms that underpin American self-government and invites unfettered Executive power—transforming the United States from a democracy to an autocracy. As members of the legal profession, pledged to support the rule of law and the constitutional separation of powers, we must not allow this to happen." I am pleased to endorse this Letter and Appendix by Lawyers Defending American Democracy, www.lawyersdefendingdemocracy.org, and include them in the RECORD.

We are fortunate that, at a time of rising authoritarianism around the world, lawyers in the United States are standing strong for the rule of law and the Constitution.

OPEN LETTER OF LAWYERS DEFENDING
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

We live at a time when America's fundamental values are under attack. As American lawyers, we're deeply concerned about protecting the democratic institutions and principles that have enabled America to be the world's preeminent beacon of freedom and opportunity.

As lawyers, we have the responsibility to defend the underlying constitutional values and norms of political behavior on which our democracy depends. These core values and principles include: the rule of law; institutional checks and balances; separation of powers; press freedom; truthfulness to the public; and the integrity of our system of justice.

Accordingly, we, as lawyers, cannot ignore or remain silent about President Donald Trump's disregard of these core values and principles. We must speak out.

Yet, we recognize that elections have consequences. This effort to energize and mobilize our legal profession is emphatically NOT about disagreements over Republican or Democratic policies, liberal or conservative ideology, or political party advantage. The values and principles threatened here go much deeper, and are much more important than politics, policy differences and any politician's self-interest. They're the bedrock of